

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING KAYLA CRESS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kayla Cress, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, Troop 5091, and in earning the most prestigious honor of the Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement attainable in Girl Scouting. To earn the Gold Award, a Scout must complete five requirements, all of which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. The requirements include: 1. Earning four interest project patches, each of which requires seven activities that center on skill building, technology, service projects, and career exploration; 2. Earning the Career Exploration pin, which involves researching careers, writing resumes, and planning a career fair or trip; 3. Earning the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, which requires a minimum of 30 hours of work using leadership skills; 4. Designing a self-development plan that requires assessment of ability to interact with others and prioritize values, participation for a minimum of 15 hours in a community service project, and development of a plan to promote Girl Scouting; and 5. Spending a minimum of 50 hours planning and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award project that has a positive lasting impact on the community.

For her Gold Award project, Kayla did refurbishment work at the Burr Oaks Conservation Center.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kayla Cress for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, domestic violence is not just an issue that affects women; it is an issue that affects us all. So many of our mothers, sisters, co-workers, colleagues and friends may be victims of domestic violence and you may never even know. The woman sitting next to you may be battered or abused, and she is keeping it a deep dark secret because she is embarrassed, ashamed, or afraid. We need to continue to work hard to bring the issue of domestic violence out of the closet. Silence will not fix the problem. We need programs that continue to bring the issue out in the open and let victims know that their

lives mean something! Let them know that there is no justification for abuse and that they do not have to live with it day after day. Victims need to know that there are places that they can go and people who can help. Victims need to know how to enact a plan so that they can flee their batterer and have resources available so that they are not forced to go back. It takes a tremendous amount of courage to flee an abuser, having the resources available to stay away should be the farthest thing from a victim's mind. That is why it is so important to have counseling services available helping with preparation.

I saw a flyer the other day entitled "10 Things Men Can Do to Prevent Men's Violence Against Women." Men need to understand that while most never abuse, there are factors that contribute to the cycle of violence and all of us need to do our part to end the cycle. We need to teach our sons how not to abuse and how not to contribute to it. We need to teach them that women must be treated with respect and dignity. Until men become actively involved in ending domestic violence, these cycles will never be broken.

TO COMMEND KANSAS CITY GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, the Girl Scouts program encourages strong values, leadership, responsibility, confidence, and friendship among young women. Programs in the Kansas City, Kansas, region have been thriving for years, empowering young women to develop to their full potential.

Girl Scouts enables young women to grow into strong citizens by teaching money and financial management, health and fitness, global awareness, and community service. As a result of the program, millions of Girl Scouts have been introduced to the arts, science, math, and technology.

On March 2, in my home state of Kansas, 21 Kansas City area Girl Scouts will be awarded the highest honor in Scouting, the Gold Award. These young women will be recognized for completion of five requirements: community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills.

In order to receive the Gold Award honor, these girls have accomplished several tasks. Every recipient has earned four project patches, each of which requires fulfillment of seven activities that center on skill building, technology, service, and career exploration. In addition, each girl has earned the Career Exploration pin, received for their work researching potential careers. The Gold Award recipients have also earned the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award for completing at least 30 hours of work involving leadership skills. Finally, the young women have spent a minimum of 50

hours planning and implementing a Gold Award project that has a positive and lasting impact on the Kansas City community. I am proud that these 21 Gold Award recipients will be recognized, joining the 3,000 honored nationwide each year.

I commend the Girl Scouts program for their support, dedication, and commitment to American girls, and I applaud these 21 new Gold Award recipients on their achievement.

A listing of their names and hometown follows:

D'erin May, Bonner Springs.
Leanne Gray, Lansing.
Mackenzie Smith, Leavenworth.
Katie Brovont, Olathe.
Jaime Lenninger, Shawnee Mission.
Jacquelynn Sullivan, Shawnee Mission.
Katie Wall, Shawnee Mission.
Kristen Keplinger, Shawnee Mission.
Dena Neuenschwander, Shawnee Mission.
Jennifer Jacobs, Shawnee Mission.
Jennifer Sherman, Shawnee Mission.
Phyllis Adebajo, Shawnee Mission.
Bridget Barton, Shawnee Mission.
Julie Wiseman, Shawnee Mission.
Laura Smith, Shawnee Mission.
Hilary Junk, Shawnee Mission.
Megan Campbell, Shawnee Mission.
Megan Stinemetz, Shawnee Mission.
Amy Sapenoff, Shawnee Mission.
Christine Thomson, Shawnee Mission.
Michelle Kentrup, Shawnee Mission.

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to an organization in my district that provides vital services to women and families that have been affected by domestic violence.

180 Turning Lives Around, formerly the Women's Center of Monmouth County provides a safe and supportive haven, where women and children can begin to heal.

180 Offices provide specialized counseling and programming for women affected by domestic violence and sexual assault. They staff outreach offices in towns that have the highest rates of domestic violence and sexual assaults in Monmouth County and some of the highest rates in the state, making these outreach programs vital to the communities they serve.

180 provides programming for women of color, including a group-counseling format called "Makeda" for Latina and African American women. In addition, 180 coordinates with local courts, police and prosecutor's offices to ensure that victims and family members receive access to appropriate services. These services include the domestic violence offender's intervention program "Alternatives to Abuse," victim's counseling, art therapy for children exposed to domestic violence and other community services.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Reports indicate that since 180 has implemented this innovative multi-disciplinary approach, domestic violence police cases in towns throughout the county have dropped by nearly 35 percent, while recidivism rates for domestic violence offenders have dropped over 50 percent. The programs provided by the 180 show concrete results in terms of reduced crime while providing a critical and invaluable resource to the community in general and women and minorities in particular.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join with me and continue to support 180 and her sister programs and women's centers throughout the nation. Domestic violence is a problem that affects all of society, not just women—and it is critical that we work together to break the cycle and put an end to domestic violence.

HONORING DETECTIVE JAMES ROYS

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an exemplary member of the Long Island community.

The Suffolk County Police Department consistently shows us the best and most heroic that Long Island has to offer. For thirty-one years, Detective James Roys has served as a commendable member of that department. Over the years, Detective Roys worked on numerous high-profile cases. In 1990 he was promoted to Detective and in 1995 he was transferred to the Homicide Squad. He was the lead detective on numerous murder investigations, including the noteworthy cases of Andrew Dukes, Krystal Barbasso, Anthony Meo and Eric Burkes. Detective Roys has made a lasting contribution to the safety of Long Island residents.

On January 4, 2003, Detective James Roys retired from the Suffolk County Police Department. It is with great admiration that I come to this floor to offer my congratulations and best wishes. He will be truly missed by his colleagues and by Suffolk County residents who depended on his hard work for so many years.

Mr. Speaker, Suffolk County owes a debt of gratitude to Detective James Roys.

CONGRATULATIONS KIM HEIMAN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kim Heiman, winner of the 2003 Walter B. Jones NOAA Excellence Award in the Category of Excellence in Coastal and Marine Graduate Study. Her study of marine ecology and in particular the spread of invasive species has brought her well-deserved acclaim and promises to answer many scientific questions about the physical and biological changes invasive species make on marine communities.

Born in Iowa, Miss Heiman has lived in a variety of locations including Colorado and Japan. She earned her Bachelor of Science

degree in 2000 from New College in Florida. Currently she is a third year Ph.D. student in Ecology and Evolution at Stanford University and works out of Hopkins Marine Station in Pacific Grove, California.

Increasing numbers of foreign species in the nation's harbors and estuaries can have detrimental effects on native habitats. Miss Heiman analyzes the spread of a marine tubeworm discovered as an invasive species in California's Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve in 1994. This tubeworm species builds large, hard reefs on the muddy ocean floor, thereby creating three-dimensional structures. She examines these new structures to determine if they result in more habitats where other invasive species can live, and her preliminary results show that the worm reefs have more invasive species compared to other substrates in Elkhorn Slough. Miss Heiman also studies whether the spread of other invasive species correlates with the spread of worm reefs, and this appears to be the case in Elkhorn Slough. The importance of her work rests on the application of her results by coastal ecosystem managers struggling to fight a continued spread of invasive species. Miss Heiman's results from Elkhorn Slough thus far suggest that the spread of invasive species may be mediated by the removal of hard substrates.

Through basic ecological research, Miss Heiman continues to develop conclusions that could help curtail the spread of invasive species and possibly restore our nation's seaports and harbors. On behalf of this House, I commend Kim Heiman on her excellent graduate research in the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve and her strong interest in helping answer the difficult problems that ecosystem managers face everyday.

TRIBUTE TO BOB GILDER

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Bob Gilder, a remarkable, celebrated civil rights leader in the Tampa Bay area, whose death this week is an enormous loss to our entire community.

Bob Gilder dedicated his life to fighting segregation, protecting fundamental rights and improving the quality of life for blacks in America. A native of Texas, Bob came to Tampa in 1959 after attending Florida A&M University, and by 1963, he was already speaking out at lunch-counter sit-ins, protests and marches.

Bob's voice only grew stronger over the years, and in 1967, he played a critical role in restoring order and calling for an end to violence after Tampa's race riots. He led efforts to desegregate Tampa General Hospital and St. Joseph's Hospital and started an on-the-job training program to help black people get jobs in the City of Tampa's fire department, the mayor's office and the state attorney's office. However, Bob is probably best known for his tireless voter registration efforts. Bob worked on countless voter registration drives and in 1991 served as director of the Voter Registration Coalition.

Bob was fearless in pursuing his goals. He had the know-how, the eloquence, the inspira-

tional leadership and determination to succeed in breaking through the barriers to equality. For these qualities he was chosen to serve as president of the Tampa chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and as a member of the advisory committee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission and the Florida Commission on Human Rights, among other positions. Bob received countless awards for his leadership.

Bob's legacy of service reached into his final days. Even during his illness, he became an advocate for hospice care. Bob credited the professionals at LifePath Hospice for helping him and encouraged others in the black community to turn to hospice for end-of-life care.

Bob Gilder's noble fight for justice was a blessing to the Tampa Bay community and the nation. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to his family and offer my thanks for his inspiration.

RECOGNIZING LAURA DELONG

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Laura DeLong, a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of America, Troop 1381, and in earning the most prestigious honor of the Gold Award.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement attainable in Girl Scouting. To earn the Gold Award, a Scout must complete five requirements, all of which promote community service, personal and spiritual growth, positive values, and leadership skills. The requirements include: 1. Earning four interest project patches, each of which requires seven activities that center on skill building, technology, service projects, and career exploration; 2. Earning the career exploration pin, which involves researching careers, writing resumes, and planning a career fair or trip; 3. Earning the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, which requires a minimum of 30 hours of work using leadership skills; 4. Designing a self-development plan that requires assessment of ability to interact with others and prioritize values, participation for a minimum of 15 hours in a community service project, and development of a plan to promote Girl Scouting; and 5. Spending a minimum of 50 hours planning and implementing a Girl Scout Gold Award Project that has a positive lasting impact on the community.

For her Gold Award Project, Laura created a music clinic for elementary school children.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Laura DeLong for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of America and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

MIGUEL ESTRADA NOMINATION

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I join my fellow members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus in strong opposition to the nomination of Miguel Estrada to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals.

After meeting with Mr. Estrada, I am convinced that he possesses neither the professional qualifications nor the commitment to diversity necessary for service on the second most influential court in our nation.

We are disturbed by the fact that the President has nominated a person who has no prior experience as a judge and who is not considered one of the foremost legal voices of our time.

It is clear to us that Mr. Estrada's nomination has more to do with his Spanish surname than his qualifications for the job.

Miguel Estrada has no connection to the Latino community. He has no particular affinity for the role of the courts in lifting up the Latino community. He has never contributed pro bono legal services to Latino organizations, and has no interest in righting the wrongs of the past.

In short, he has no business representing our community on a bench that is just a stone's throw from the highest court in the land.

I strongly urge the Senate to vote against the confirmation of Miguel Estrada, and I stand in solidarity with our brave colleagues in the other chamber who are opposing his nomination.

H.R. 4, WELFARE REFORM
REAUTHORIZATION**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss my views on H.R. 4 and explain my reasons for opposing this legislation and supporting a moderate, workable substitute.

I believe in a "work first" policy for welfare recipients—the best path to independence for welfare recipients is a job. I also believe that we should do all that we can to ensure that work pays and remember that the reduction of poverty—especially child poverty—is the ultimate goal of this reauthorization.

When we last voted on legislation to reauthorize TANF, I shared with leaders in the House concerns expressed by officials in Kansas, including Janet Schalansky, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. Ms. Schalansky expressed clearly that the TANF reauthorization legislation must not impose another set of unfunded mandates and must recognize the great need for education, training and other supports for individuals leaving welfare. Unfortunately, her calls were ignored once again.

I had hoped that our President—a former governor—and congressional Republicans—who speak often of freeing the states from undue burdens placed by the Federal govern-

ment—would have heeded the concerns expressed about this legislation by governors and state officials around the country. Currently, and into the foreseeable future, most states are struggling with severe budget shortfalls that are projected to approach \$85 billion this year, and H.R. 4 imposes an additional unfunded mandate on the states to the tune of \$8–11 billion—\$67 million for the state of Kansas alone. Kansas is currently facing a budget crisis and its leaders are cutting services and raising taxes as we speak just to balance the budget. An unfunded mandate of this magnitude could devastate the state budget. If we are going to raise the bar for the states, we must provide support so that states can reach the bar.

The funding provided in H.R. 4 is not sufficient to accomplish and sustain the goals of the TANF program. Furthermore, this legislation allocates funding for child care that barely keeps pace with inflation and does not begin to provide the funding necessary to provide the child care that the additional work hours will demand. To fully implement this bill, the state of Kansas would need \$33.5 in extra funding for child care alone.

States, including Kansas, have done a good job implementing the provisions of the 1996 law. Kansas has reduced the cash assistance caseload by more than half, and helped approximately 37,000 adults become employed and retain employment. I want to continue to do what I can to ensure that the states have the tools and flexibility they need to help welfare recipients move from welfare to work, but H.R. 4, like H.R. 4737 before it, falls far short of that goal.

For these reasons, I am supporting the Cardin-Kind-Woolsey substitute that will provide an extra \$11 billion in mandatory funding for child care to help states provide child care for working welfare recipients and provide an inflationary increase for the TANF block grant.

Education is the path through which welfare recipients will truly find long-term, well-paying, permanent employment. Only education and training will give welfare recipients the skills they need to move permanently to a life of self-sufficiency. Unfortunately, this legislation greatly reduces the states' discretion to allow welfare recipients to get education and training to pull themselves out of poverty. This legislation removes vocational education from the list of work-related activities that count toward the core work requirement. In addition, the bill does not provide an employment credit to the states when individuals leave welfare for work.

That is why I am supporting a substitute that will allow states to combine successful "work first" initiatives with education and training. The substitute will give states credit when they move individuals from welfare to private-sector jobs—rather than giving them an incentive to create government "make work" programs.

Mr. Speaker, the House should reject H.R. 4 and approve the Cardin-Kind-Woolsey substitute. Our goal is to move welfare recipients to work and help people lift themselves out of poverty. The substitute gives the states the tools they need to achieve that goal.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on February 25, 2003, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote on H. Res. 46, honoring the life of Al Hirschfeld and his legacy, and H. Con. Res. 40, permitting the use of the Rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on both measures.

HONORING KIMBERLY GREENWOOD

HON. JEB BRADLEY

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kimberly Greenwood of Greenland upon her recognition as a 2003 Prudential Spirit of Community State Honoree by Prudential Financial and the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

This honor, which is bestowed upon one middle school and one high school student volunteer from each state, is designed to emphasize the importance our nation places on service to others. Kimberly's actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities. Kimberly proves that with a little creativity and a lot of passion, one person can make a difference that has profound ripple effects in his or her community.

Motivated to educate her peers about the growing hunger problem, Kimberly faced the daunting task of planning events that would hold the attention of middle school students. Kimberly's creativity in planning events and fundraisers is a testament to her dedication to making a lasting impact on her peers. Kimberly organized a raffle, bake sale and a "dress-down pass sale," which allowed purchasers to wear everyday clothes instead of their school uniform for one day. Her keen business savvy proved successful, as she raised over \$750 for local and national charities. In order to highlight the program's impact, Kimberly collected all of the wasted food from the students' lunch period each day for one week during the food fast and weighed it. By the end of the week, the students had cut the amount of food they wasted by twenty pounds, and had achieved a greater respect for their own good fortunes. Kimberly is a living example of how people of all ages need to think about how to work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods.

Young volunteers like Kimberly are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow. She truly exemplifies what is good about today's youth. I applaud Kimberly for her efforts to make her community a better place to live and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. It is an honor to represent her in the U.S. House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSWOMAN
CARRIE MEEK

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with the pinnacle of respect that I rise today to pay tribute to retired Congresswoman Carrie Meek.

For the past 10 years, I have had the distinct honor and privilege to not only know Carrie, but to serve in this great body with her, all the while being the gracious beneficiary of her wealth of spirit and depth of character.

Only in America can the granddaughter of a slave and the daughter of a former sharecropper believe that she can achieve and conquer all that presents itself in opposition to her dreams.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt stated in one of his fireside chats, "The true test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little." Carrie is the embodiment of that quote.

She has fought with relentless effort for the people of the 17th Congressional District of Florida and has served them and her country well.

Carrie Meek has set the stage and perpetuated the legacy of political astuteness for all of us, but particularly for African-American women everywhere.

Carrie is truly a political pioneer and I and this legislative body have been, without a doubt, made the better for having just been in her element.

HUMAN CLONING PROHIBITION
ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union has under consideration the bill (H.R. 534) to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit human cloning:

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Chairman, I'd like to speak on behalf of the Greenwood Amendment H.R. 534. This has to do with research to help save human lives. It's not a question of human cloning. The process we're talking about—therapeutic cloning—takes embryos, many of which are fertilized in a laboratory petri dish. They are saved. The cells are separated so they can continue to grow. We learn about a mechanism to better understand tissues in the body. There will be an ability to cure diseases such as Parkinson's, Diabetes, Heart Muscle Disease, Chronic Liver Disease—the list is endless.

So please don't stop this exciting area of breakthrough new science. Don't confuse the issue with reproductive cloning. Hammers are used to build a building, but they can also be used as a lethal weapon. Because a hammer can be used as a murder weapon, we don't automatically outlaw it. Please support the Greenwood Amendment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INDIAN
SCHOOL BUS ROUTE SAFETY RE-
AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2003

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise to introduce companion legislation to a bill being introduced by Senator JEFF BINGAMAN in the Senate today. I am extremely pleased to be joined in introducing this legislation, the Indian School Bus Route Safety Reauthorization Act of 2003, by Congressman JIM MATHESON of Utah and Congressman RICK RENZI of Arizona, both of whom represent portions of the Navajo Nation in their Congressional districts.

This legislation is of great importance to our three states—specifically to the children and residents of the Navajo Nation, and the counties into which the Navajo Nation's boundaries extend. In New Mexico these counties are McKinley and San Juan Counties, and prior to 1998 they were responsible for maintaining the roads used by county school buses that stretch into the reservation to transport the children of the Navajo Nation to and from the county schools. Although there is nothing unique about counties funding and maintaining the roads in their jurisdiction, this particular case of the counties being responsible for the upkeep of the roads that ran into the Navajo Nation was extremely rare, and seems to be the only situation of this kind throughout the United States. This put an enormous burden on McKinley and San Juan County officials, and oftentimes resulted in impassable roads, which, in turn, resulted in children missing school because the buses were unable to pick them up.

In 1998, however, Senator Bingaman was successful in acquiring funds through the Indian School Bus Route Safety Act for the counties in New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona to assist them in facing this particularly burdensome responsibility. Today, we are proud to introduce the reauthorization of this legislation, which is set to expire very soon, to provide further assistance to the counties and children of the Navajo Nation. This bill authorizes funds totaling \$24 million for Fiscal Years 2004 through 2009 to be split equally among New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona. The breakdown of the total amount of funding is \$3 million each year for FY2004 and 2005, \$4 million each year for FY2006 and 2007, and \$5 million each year for FY2008 and 2009.

These critical funds will provide much-needed assistance to the counties, and will help put an end to the shameful situation of children missing school simply because of impassable roads due to lack of maintenance. I am extremely hopeful that we can either pass this measure, or include it as part of the TEA-21 reauthorization bill and provide further assistance to the children of the Navajo Nation and our respective states. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

INTRODUCING A BILL TO MAKE
LEAF TOBACCO AN ELIGIBLE
COMMODITY FOR THE MARKET
ACCESS PROGRAM

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues from other tobacco producing states to introduce a bill to put an end to discrimination against tobacco farmers. For almost eight years, hard-working, God-fearing, taxpaying tobacco farmers have been denied access to the funds provided by the federal Market Access Program, commonly known as MAP.

Under MAP, agricultural industry trade associations, cooperatives, and state or regional trade groups each year are invited to submit proposals to USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) to conduct approved foreign market development projects for various U.S. agricultural, fishery and forestry products. Examples include consumer promotions, market research, technical assistance, and trade servicing. MAP funds have been used to promote a wide range of products from sunflower seeds to catfish and cotton to hops for use in making beer.

Since 1993 USDA has been prohibited from using MAP funds to promote tobacco leaf sales overseas. This is patently unfair, and it is time for this discrimination to end. The future of American agriculture is tied to international trade. Currently, 25% of farmers' gross income comes from exports. The futures of thousands of Tar Heel tobacco farm families depend on exports, and I am not going to stand by and watch other commodities benefit from federal funds to access these markets while tobacco farmers are left out in the cold.

It is high time that tobacco is treated like the legal product that it is, and this legislation is a step in the right direction. I call on President Bush, Secretary Veneman, and my colleagues to support this bill and give our struggling tobacco farm families an opportunity to not just survive, but thrive.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AQUATIC
INVASIVE SPECIES RESEARCH ACT

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today a bill that is a critical component in our efforts to combat aquatic invasive species—the Aquatic Invasive Species Research Act. This legislation creates a comprehensive research program that supports federal, state and local efforts to prevent invasive species from ever entering our waterways, as well as detection, control and eradication efforts once they are here. It complements a bill introduced today by Mr. GILCREST in the House and Mr. LEVIN in the Senate, to reauthorize the National Invasive Species Act. This legislation is a critical component in our battle against these harmful and extremely damaging pests.

In undertaking this effort, I have found that many people wonder—"What is an invasive

species? Why it is so crucial to keep them out of the United States?" It is important that we understand these questions so that we can appreciate the scope of the threat that invasive species pose to our economy and environment.

The introduction of non-native species is not new to the United States. People have brought non-native plants and animals into the United States, both intentionally and unintentionally, for a variety of reasons, since the New World was discovered. Some examples include the introduction of nutria (which is a rodent similar to a muskrat) by trappers to bolster the domestic fur industry, and the introduction of the purple loosestrife plant to add rich color to gardens. Both nutria and purple loosestrife are now serious threats to wetlands. Non-native species may also be introduced unintentionally, such as through species hitching rides in ships, crates, planes, or soil coming into the United States. For example, zebra mussels, first discovered in Lake St. Clair near Detroit in the late 1980s, came into the Great Lakes through ballast water from ships.

Not all species brought into the country are harmful to local economies, people and/or the environment. In fact, most non-native species do not survive because the environment does not meet their biological needs. In many cases, however, the new species will find favorable conditions (such as a lack of natural enemies or an environment that fosters propagation) that allow it to survive and thrive in a new ecosystem.

Only a small fraction of these non-native species become an "invasive species"—defined as a species that is both non-native to the ecosystem and whose introduction causes or may cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. However, this small fraction can cause enormous damage, both to our economy and our environment.

Estimating the total economic impact of invasive species is extremely difficult. No single organization accumulates such statistics comprehensively. However, researchers at Cornell University estimate that invasive species cost Americans \$137 billion annually. This includes the cost of control, damage to property values, health costs and other factors. Just one species can cost government and private citizens billions of dollars. For example, zebra mussels have cost the various entities in the Great Lakes basin an estimated \$3 billion during the past 10 years for cleaning water intake pipes, purchasing filtration equipment, etc.

Beyond economic impacts, invasive species cause ecological costs that are even more difficult to quantify. For example, sea lamprey control measures in the Great Lakes cost approximately \$10 million to \$15 million annually. However, we do not have a good measure of the cost of lost fisheries due to this invader, which was first discovered in the Great Lakes in the early 1900s. In fact, invasive species now are second only to habitat loss as threats to endangered species. Quantifying the loss due to extinction caused by these invasive species is nearly impossible.

Given the enormous economic and environmental impacts these invaders cause, two clear goals emerge: First, we need to focus more resources and energy into dealing with this problem at all levels of government; second, our best strategy for dealing with invasive

species is to focus these resources to prevent them from ever entering the United States. Spending millions of dollars to prevent species introductions will save billions of dollars in control, eradication and restoration efforts once the species become established. In fact, one theme is central to both Mr. GILCREST's bill and this legislation. It is an old adage, but one worth following—"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

To successfully carry out this strategy, we need careful, concerted management of this problem underpinned by research at every step. For example, we know that we must do more to regulate the pathways by which these invaders enter the United States (ships, aquaculture, etc.), which is an important component of Mr. GILCREST's legislation. However, research must inform us as to which of these pathways pose the greatest threat and which techniques used to manage each pathway are effective. This legislation would help develop this understanding through the ecological and pathway surveys conducted under this bill. In fact, research underlies every management decision aimed at detecting, preventing, controlling and eradicating invasive species; educating citizens and stakeholders; and ensuring that resources are optimally deployed to increase the effectiveness of government programs. These items are also reflected in the legislation, which I will now describe in more detail.

The bill is divided into six main parts. The first three parts outline an ecological and pathway research program, combining surveys and experimentation, to be established by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center and the United States Geological Survey. This program is focused on understanding what invasive species are present in our waterways, which pathways they use to enter our waterways, how they establish themselves once they are here and whether or not invasions are getting better or worse based on decisions to regulate pathways. In carrying out this program, the three principal agencies I mentioned previously will develop standardized protocols for carry out the ecological and pathway surveys that are called for under the legislation. In addition, they will coordinate their efforts to establish long-term surveys sites so we have strong baseline information. This program also includes an important grant program so that academic researchers and state agencies can carry out the surveys at diverse sites distributed geographically around the country. This will give federal, state and local managers a more holistic view of the rates and patterns of invasions of aquatic invasive species into the United States. Lastly, the principal agencies will coordinate their efforts and pull all of this information together and analyze it to help determine whether or not decisions to manage these pathways are effective. This will inform policymakers as to which pathways pose the greatest threat and whether or not they need to change the way these pathways are managed.

The fourth part of the bill contains several programs to develop, demonstrate and verify technologies to prevent, control and eradicate invasive species. The first component is an Environmental Protection Agency grant program focused on developing, demonstrating and verifying environmentally sound technologies to control and eradicate aquatic

invasive species. This research program will give federal, state and local managers more tools to combat invasive species that are also environmentally sound. The second component is a program to develop dispersal barriers—administered by the Army Corps of Engineers—which have been a critical issue in the Chicago Sanitary Canal where Great Lakes managers have been desperately trying to keep the Asian Carp from entering Lake Michigan from the Mississippi River system. The third component is expansion both in terms of scope and funding of a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Fish and Wildlife Service program geared toward demonstrating technologies that prevent invasive species from being introduced by ships. This is the federal government's only program that is focused solely on helping develop viable technologies to treat ballast water. It has been woefully underfunded in the past and deserves more attention.

The fifth part of the bill focuses on setting up research to directly support the Coast Guard's efforts to set standards for the treatment of ships with respect to preventing them from introducing invasive species. Ships are a major pathway by which invasive species are unintentionally introduced; the ballast water discharged by ships is of particular concern. One of the key issues that has hampered efforts to deal with the threats that ships pose is the lack of standards for how ballast water must be treated when it is discharged. The Coast Guard has had a very difficult time developing these standards since the underlying law that support their efforts (the National Invasive Species Act) did not contain a research component to support their work. This legislation provides that missing piece.

Finally, the sixth and final part supports our ability to identify invaders once they arrive. Over the past couple of decades, the number of scientists working in systematics and taxonomy, expertise that is fundamental to identifying species, has decreased steadily. In order to address this problem, the legislation sets up a National Science Foundation program to give grants for academic research in systematics and taxonomy with the goal of maintaining U.S. expertise in these disciplines.

Taken together, both my legislation and Mr. GILCREST's represent an important step forward in our efforts to prevent invasive species from ever crossing our borders and combat them once they are here. New invaders are arriving in the United States each day, bringing with them even more burden on taxpayers and the environment. We simply cannot afford to wait any longer to deal with this problem, and so I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

ESTABLISHING AN ANNUAL VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 2003

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support for National Visiting Nurse Association Week. As a nurse

for over thirty years, I am always proud to celebrate what I still consider the best profession in the world.

Today we are here to commend a very special type of nurse, those that specialize in home health care. For more than 100 years, Visiting Nurse Associations (VNAs) have been providing home health care to the communities they serve. Beginning in the late 1800s, VNAs provided critical home-based care for the homebound, the impoverished, the frail elderly and children at-risk.

Over a hundred years later, not-for-profit VNAs continue their unparalleled, selfless tradition of offering quality of life and independence to all Americans through comprehensive home health care. Today, guided by their charitable missions, VNAs care for nearly 10 million people annually.

VNAs provide home health care for patients of all ages—from infants to elderly. They are the educators of disease prevention and health promotion. Physicians are confident when referring to VNAs because of their high level of quality standards and clinical excellence. Patients are extremely satisfied with the care they receive from VNAs as shown by a 99 percent customer satisfaction rating.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to show their support for Visiting Nurse Associations everywhere by voting for this wonderful resolution.

NATIONAL PEACE CORPS DAY

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Peace Corps Day, and in support of our nation's enduring commitment to progress, opportunity, and expanded development at the grassroots level throughout the developing world.

Since 1961, more than 168,000 Americans—including over 5,000 Minnesotans—responded to our nation's call to serve by becoming Peace Corps Volunteers in 136 countries. Today, more than 7,000 Americans currently serve in the Peace Corps, providing valuable assistance to developing countries, contributing their skills to support programs in education, health, business, agriculture and the environment.

Peace Corps volunteers have improved the lives of communities throughout the world by responding to real global crises such as poverty, hunger and HIV/AIDS. They have strengthened the ties of friendship and understanding between the people of the United States and those of other countries, and have brought back to the U.S. a deeper understanding of other cultures and nations.

National Peace Corps Day recognizes the work of returned Peace Corps Volunteers as they bring their experiences to work, school, places of worship and recreation, sharing with colleagues, friends, and community members how their volunteer service changed and shaped their lives. Today, across the nation, we honor the spirit of these Volunteers and reaffirm our country's commitment to helping people help themselves throughout the world.

In this spirit, and in honor of National Peace Corps Day, I have introduced House Concur-

rent Resolution 61, expressing the need to increase funding for the Peace Corps by \$550 million by 2007. This legislation reflects the President's commitment to double the number of Peace Corps Volunteers over the next four years, and recognizes the unprecedented funding challenges the Peace Corps will face as the President's initiative to expand the program moves forward.

As we gather today to honor the tremendous achievements of our Peace Corps Volunteers from the past, let us not forget the thousands that serve today, including the twenty-four volunteers from my Congressional District in Minnesota serving in such locations as Honduras, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan and the Philippines. Now, more than ever, it is clear that the cross-cultural understanding developed through Peace Corps programs is invaluable to our nation.

HOUSING GROUPS OPPOSE ADMINISTRATION SECTION 8 PROPOSAL

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, one of the areas where national policy is weakest is that of affordable housing. The very prosperity of the nineties that so benefited most Americans in fact exacerbated the housing crisis for many, because of the unevenness of the housing market and of that prosperity. Sadly, recent proposals from this administration not only do nothing to alleviate these areas of housing crisis, they would worsen them. One of the areas where the administration's proposals would worsen an already bad situation is that of Section 8 Housing, the main program by which we help people rent housing when they cannot afford decent homes on their own. Not only has the program been insufficiently funded recently, the administration's new budget proposal seeks to make this a block grant, removing any federal protections for those in need, and subjecting them to the already strong pressures that many state budgets face. A coalition of some of the most important groups in the housing field, including many of those business organizations that seek to help us meet the need for affordable housing, recently wrote to Secretary Martinez expressing their strong opposition to this proposal. Their letter lists several reasons why this program would be harmful to our major current effort to help low income people meet their housing needs, and given the expertise and commitment of those who have signed the letter, as well as their reasoning, I ask that it be printed here so that the members may benefit from their very sound judgment.

FEBRUARY 25, 2003.

Hon. MEL MARTINEZ,
Dept. of Housing & Urban Development,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY MARTINEZ: The undersigned groups are writing to express our concern regarding HUD's FY04 Budget proposal to block grant the Housing Choice Voucher program.

The voucher program, created under the Nixon Administration, has become the cornerstone of federal affordable housing policy and has broad support among many constituencies.

In recent years, an increased number of conventional apartment owners have begun participating in the voucher program. While the program is not perfect, professional apartment owners in partnership with the current voucher administrators have made great strides in helping low-income families find quality affordable rental housing—a partnership that helps the community as a whole.

Apartment owners and managers look to uniformity and consistency of program rules and funding levels when deciding to participate as voucher landlords. HUD's proposal creates uncertainty in this regard, the result of which will have a chilling impact upon market participation in the program.

In addition, multifamily property owners often operate in multiple States. If each State creates its own program, it would necessitate the understanding of new rules created by up to 50 different administrators. Further, any shifting of federal funds to state block grants raises serious concerns about future funding availability, begging the question of why States would be interested in HUD's proposal.

A dramatic shift in program rules and administrators will also jeopardize the new homeownership voucher programs launched by local agencies in partnership with the real estate and lending community. This homeownership initiative holds promise for increasing opportunities for low-income families.

Devolution may have a place in any sound federal housing policy, but not in relation to the House Choice Voucher program. We stand ready to work with HUD on alternative approaches to strengthening its tenant-based assistance.

Sincerely,
Council for Affordable and Rural Housing.
Institute for Responsible Housing Preservation.

Institute of Real Estate Management.
National Apartment Association.
National Association of Realtors.
National Leased Housing Association.
National Multi House Council.

UNITING IN THE FIGHT TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on the 5th Annual National Lobby Day for The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, to join my colleagues in speaking out against domestic violence, a brutal crime committed against millions of women. Domestic violence is the single largest cause of injury to women between the ages of fifteen and forty-four, more than muggings, car accidents and rapes combined.

Mr. Speaker, women are losing their right to safety in their homes and in their communities. Women account for an alarming 85 percent of the victims of domestic violence. Each year between two to four million women are battered, and a substantial number of these battered women will die of their injuries.

Devastatingly, because one in three women are likely to be abused by a partner or someone she knows, only half of all female victims report their injuries to the proper authorities. Women remain in grave fear of their lives and do not leave their violent relationships.

Domestic violence is increasing at a disturbing rate. In my home state of Florida,

which has an increasingly expanding immigrant population, battered women claim that they are in fear of reporting their violent relationships until their immigration concerns are addressed.

These women, Mr. Speaker, are fed misinformation about United States laws and are faced with the threats of deportation by their abusers. Many of these women are overly dependent on their abusers because they face racial and language barriers. Others face cultural barriers and being a victim of domestic violence is considered taboo.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in encouraging and supporting all victims of domestic abuse to seek help and to report all violent and criminal acts without being ashamed to do so. We must help prevent women from being ashamed and embarrassed and encourage them to report the abuse from these monsters.

Further, I strongly encourage Congress and the Administration to support and pass legislation pertaining to health care and law enforcement in order to combat violence against women. The abuse of women is an all too common occurrence and the fight to prevent this crime must strengthen.

TRIBUTE TO SPARKMAN HIGH
SCHOOL OF HARVEST, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sparkman High School from Harvest, Alabama for winning the statewide "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" competition. I am proud to announce that this group of bright students from my Congressional district will represent the state of Alabama in the national competition event that will be held on April 26, 2003. The Sparkman class will join more than 1,200 students from across the United States in Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals.

The "We the People . . ." program is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. These young scholars from Sparkman High School have worked diligently to reach the national finals by participating in local and statewide competitions. Through their experience, they have gained a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitution. I want to congratulate these students on this outstanding achievement.

The "We the People" program, administered by the Center for Civic Education, provides students with a working knowledge of our Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the principles of democratic government. The national competition is modeled after hearings in the United States Congress, giving students the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge while they evaluate different positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. Students will give testimonies followed by a period of questioning by the judges to explore their depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge.

It is inspiring to see these young people advocate the fundamental ideals and principles

of our government. These are ideas that identify us as a people and bind us together as a nation. It is important for our next generation to understand these values and principles that we hold as standards in our endeavor to preserve and realize the promise of our constitutional democracy.

The class from Sparkman High School is currently conducting research and preparing for their upcoming participation in the national competition in Washington, D.C. I commend their teacher, State Representative Sue Schmitz, for teaching these young "constitutional experts," and I wish the class the best of luck at the "We the People" national finals. They represent the future leaders of our nation.

THE PRESIDENT'S STEEL INITIATIVE ONE YEAR LATER: A SUCCESS

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, one year ago today, the President made a courageous decision to impose a temporary trade remedy against dumped and subsidized steel imports that were causing serious injury to our U.S. steel industry and its workers. This action was taken under Section 201 of the Trade Act, and the international rules of the World Trade Organization Safeguards Agreement. One year later, it is clear that his steel initiative has begun to produce an important consolidation and restructuring of the U.S. steel industry that will benefit our national economic security and our domestic steel customer base long-term.

Since the President's decision, prices are recovering, steel supply is generally robust, and the industry has begun dramatic consolidation and restructuring. This recovery is important news for Nucor Steel Utah, located in my district, and for steel producers in other similar communities all across America. The result at the end of the three-year period will be top quality steel, produced in high technology mills in America, which will become an even better value for our nation's steel consumers.

The President is also addressing the root cause of the import problems, by negotiating with our trading partners to eliminate global excess capacity and foreign government subsidies. As a result, the world's steel producing nations are for the first time talking meaningfully about reducing unneeded capacity and eliminating subsidies.

I thank the President for upholding our trade laws, despite intense opposition from abroad. His decision was the correct one. Thank you, Mr. President, stay the course. Your plan is benefiting my district and the nation's steel industry.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, March 4, 2003, I was unable to cast my floor

vote on rollcall numbers 40, 41 and 42. The votes I missed include rollcall vote 40 on Suspending the Rules and Agreeing to H. Res. 106, Congratulating Lutheran Schools; rollcall vote 41 on Suspending the Rules and Agreeing to H. Con. Res. 54, Expressing support of National Visiting Nurse Association Week; and rollcall vote 42 on Suspending the Rules and Agreeing to H. Res. 111, Honoring the Legacy of Fred Rogers.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 40, 41 and 42.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
CORWIN M. NIXON ON HIS 90TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Honorable Corwin M. Nixon, a dear friend and distinguished constituent, who will celebrate his 90th birthday on March 9, 2003.

Corwin has served Warren County, Ohio, and the State of Ohio with great distinction. From 1948 to 1960, he served as a Warren County Commissioner. Shortly thereafter, Corwin was elected to the Ohio General Assembly as a State Representative, where he served for 30 years from 1962 to 1992. He had the distinction of being minority leader of the Ohio House of Representatives during his last 14 years in office.

Throughout his successful public service career, Corwin Nixon was always a true gentleman who worked well with his colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Corwin also cared deeply about his constituents. He has told me he "used to mail get-well cards to everyone who got sick." Corwin once was shown four get-well cards that were kept on a constituent's mantel, one for each time this person had been in the hospital. He has also told me of his habit of sending a congratulatory note with a \$1 bill enclosed to newborns, and how to this day these lucky recipients of his thoughtfulness come up to him to thank him.

Corwin has been extremely active in a number of good causes and organizations locally, statewide, and nationally. He is President of the U.S. Trotting Association, where he has been a member for 16 years. For 34 years, he has been an original member of the American Horse Council. Corwin also serves on a number of boards, including the Grandview Hospital, Bethesda Hospital, and Big Brothers and Sisters. Among other activities, Corwin has managed the well-known Lebanon Raceway for 50 years.

Family has always been important to Corwin. He and his wife, Eleanor, were married for 45 years before she passed away. They have two children, Keith and Karen (twins), and three grandchildren, Melissa (Missy), Tina, and Keith Jr. They also have four great grandchildren, Corwin Keith III, Eleanor, Preston, and Austin.

Mr. Speaker, Corwin Nixon is a remarkable person who has touched so many lives and has given so much to our community, our state, and our nation over many years. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing his

many accomplishments as he celebrates his 90th birthday on March 9, 2003.

**PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP ON
STEEL**

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, on March 5 a year ago, President Bush boldly gave temporary trade relief to our domestic steel industry. I believe his plan is succeeding.

It is my understanding that since 1973, Alabama's steel industry had steadily lost 16,000 employees, or about half the labor force. We needed a bold plan.

I am proud to have supported the President and his initiative to stop the illegal dumping of foreign steel in the United States. His proposed Section 201 trade relief over three years was also intended to leverage negotiations to address the root cause of the world's surplus capacity, what the President called a "50-year legacy of foreign government intervention in the market and direct financial support of their steel industries."

Well, a year later, some of our steel companies, including those in Alabama, are actually rehiring workers as domestic steel prices have firmed up, although they are still below the level two years ago. Also, to the best of my understanding, the critics' predictions of hefty price increases in consumer goods proved mistaken. And I am pleased that international negotiations are underway, thanks to the leverage of the Section 201 tariffs.

The results of the President's leadership on steel look good so far. I urge him to finish his program on schedule.

**IN SUPPORT OF THE LIFESPAN
RESPITE CARE ACT OF 2003**

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Lifespan Respite Care Act, which I am reintroducing today with the support of a group of 51 original cosponsors from both parties.

Each year, over 26 million Americans care for an adult family member who is chronically ill or disabled. An estimated 18 million children have chronic physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional conditions that place significant demands on their parental caregivers. Nearly four million Americans of all ages who have mental retardation or another developmental disability live with their families. Providing voluntary care for these people is equivalent to nearly \$200 billion annually, which is the estimated cost if the family caregivers' services were provided by paid caregivers. More importantly, this voluntary care allows seniors and others to continue living at home, which improves their spirits and often speeds up recovery time.

Family caregiving has some clear benefits—it contributes to family stability and it often spares families from more costly, out-of-home

placements. While voluntary care is personally rewarding, it can result in substantial emotional, physical, and financial strain on the caregiver. Surveys of family caregivers consistently show an unmet need for respite care services. Respite care services relieve caregivers from daily caregiving tasks on a temporary or longer-term basis. This is often necessary for caregivers to address their own health issues or other crises a family may encounter—for example, in the areas of employment, housing or domestic violence. In too many situations, caregivers do not know how to find information about available respite care and access these services. In other cases, respite care is still unavailable to those who need it. Meanwhile, existing respite programs are finding it difficult to recruit and retain trained providers.

In response to this need, I have worked together with the National Respite Coalition to craft legislation that eases the burden of responsibility on the family caregivers who give so much. In many cases, this would allow them to continue to provide care for their loved ones. Many lifespan respite programs are already in place at the state and local levels, providing invaluable services to the families of people with chronic disease or disability. We are proposing to build upon these tremendously successful existing programs. The Lifespan Respite Care Act would authorize funds for development and coordination of state and local respite systems, training and recruitment of respite care workers, and creation of a National Resource Center on Lifespan Respite Care. By passing this legislation, we could take a proactive step toward providing quality at-home care for millions of Americans with special needs, preventing caregiver burnout, and safeguarding against the unsafe or inappropriate care that can result from the unmet need for respite care.

I thank you for the opportunity to bring this legislation to your attention and ask for the support of my colleagues to move this bill forward.

**THAILAND, BURMA, LAOS AND
VIETNAM TRIP REPORT**

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I recently returned from a trip to Thailand, the Thai-Burma border, Laos and Vietnam with U.S.-based NGO Jubilee Campaign, and with Lord David Alton of the British House of Lords. We met with government officials, NGOs, and refugees, in Thailand, Laos and Vietnam to establish relationships and raise human rights concerns, particularly trafficking and religious freedom issues.

I would like to begin with commending the people of Thailand for their well-deserved reputation for hospitality. I flew to Thailand on Thai Airways and had a wonderful experience. During our visit throughout Thailand, we were met with warm hospitality. It is this tradition and culture of hospitality that has made Thailand a safe haven for the refugees fleeing death and destruction in Burma. I urge the current Thai Administration not to pursue policies that would damage that reputation of wonderful hospitality.

In Thailand, we met with organizations working with refugees along the Thai-Burma border and with the Internally Displaced People (IDPS) inside the jungles of Burma. The situation in Burma is dire, and I would not hesitate to call it, according to international legal definitions, genocide. In Article 2 of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, genocide is defined as "any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such: (a) Killing members of the group; (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group." Reports make clear that the ironically-named State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) of Burma, the ruling military junta, has engaged in a deliberate policy to eliminate the ethnic minorities. A scorched earth policy, destroying entire villages along with food storage and production sources, systematic rape, the use of humans, including women and children, as landmine sweepers, forced labor, also known as slavery, the refusal to allow the duly elected leader of the country to take office, and many other abuses have turned the country of Burma into one large concentration camp. Sadly, the international community has turned a deaf ear to the cries of the ethnic minorities, the refugees, the IDPS, the democracy activists. Why is it that the international community fought with weapons to stop the genocide in former Yugoslavia in Europe but is ignoring the one occurring in Southeast Asia? There are a large number of organizations that carefully track the violations in Burma so there is no shortage of evidence of the human rights abuses the SPDC commits. The Karen Human Rights Group, the Shan Human Rights Foundation, the Shan Women's Action Network, the Committee for Internally Displaced Karen People, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, Christians Concerned for Burma, Partners Relief and Development, and many other Burma groups produce reports of current and past atrocities committed by the SPDC. We were given copies of over one dozen reports which provide detailed documentation of these brutal policies. I urge my colleagues to read these reports to gain further understanding of the situation in Burma.

My delegation visited refugee camps north of Mae Sot, Thailand and spoke with Karen refugees, Christians, Buddhists, and Muslims who all had fled the attacks of the SPDC on their communities. We saw landmine victims, orphans and school children, who all had suffered from the actions of the SPDC. The Thai government has been gracious in caring for these refugees, often with little help from the international community, yet there are many IDPs hiding in the jungles of Burma who need a safe place to go. I respectfully request that the Thai government allow the IDPs to enter the camps and be registered as refugees. In addition, I respectfully request that the Thai government allow the UNHCR to establish a permanent presence within the camps to help administer the needs of the refugees.

Mr. Speaker, our visit with the refugee orphans was both heart-wrenching and a delight. It was a delight to see these young children and to hear the songs they sang to us, but it was heart-wrenching to hear the amount of tragedy in these young lives. One group of four children, the oldest was 12, had lost their father; their mother could not take care of them so she brought them to the orphanage. An eight-year-old boy, who could not smile, had lost both parents, was then trafficked across the border to Thailand, somehow escaped from his "owners," and reached the safety of the refugee camps. It is heart-breaking to know that many of the young children, including the orphans, in the refugee camps had watched family or community members being killed by the SPDC, wounded or killed by landmine explosions, raped, or even burned alive.

The drug problem in Southeast Asia can largely be traced back to the SPDC regime in Burma. The military runs, controls and earns the profits off the drug trade of a reported 1 billion plus methamphetamine pills per year. These drugs have had a huge impact on the young people of the region, so it is vital that we work even more closely with the Thai government in fighting against the drug trade controlled by the Burmese military. There are reports of the SPDC forcing its soldiers to take drugs before attacking ethnic groups—captured SPDC military personnel sometimes have difficulty remembering what took place during an attack.

Mr. Speaker, it is vital that those responsible for the genocide of the ethnic groups in Burma be held to account. The reports of atrocities are reminiscent of the Nazis, their blatant disregard for human life and their policies of extermination. The ethnic cleansing of Burma is an international tragedy and I call on the international community to send monitors to Burma, to pursue prosecution of those responsible for these crimes against humanity, to press for the immediate end to deportation of democracy groups back to certain death in Burma, to press strongly for the recognition of the democratically elected government of Burma, and to send international peacekeepers to Burma. I call on the United States government to assist the refugees in Thailand, to increase pressure on the military regime in Burma and those nations that assist the junta, and to further assist the democracy and humanitarian organizations focusing on assistance to the people of Burma. One practical way we can assist the refugees is by offering scholarship opportunities for the refugee students to study abroad—the refugees currently have no legal means to continue their education past middle or high school.

While in Thailand, we also met with organizations assisting women and children, often ethnic minorities from Burma, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam, who are victims of trafficking. Many of these victims end up as such due to lack of educational and economic opportunities or lack of citizenship rights in their countries. Organizations, such as the New Life Center, provide counseling, health and medical advice and treatment, education and job skills opportunities—many of those at risk for being trafficked, after the assistance provided by NGOS, return to their communities to help educate women and children about trafficking, health, and other issues.

Our meetings with Thai officials in Bangkok with the National Security Council, the Foreign

Ministry and Members of the Thai Parliament were helpful and I look forward to working with these officials to resolve some of the issues we discussed, particularly the current concerns about forced repatriation of democracy and humanitarian groups working on Burma issues and the certain death they would face if deported back to Burma.

Our delegation then traveled to Laos to meet with government officials and some church leaders regarding various human rights concerns and other issues. Laos is one of the poorest countries in the world and one of only four nations in the world (Laos, Cuba, North Korea and Serbia-Montenegro) that do not have Normal Trade Relations (NTR) status with the U.S. Religious freedom issues have been a major concern in Laos, but reports from various organizations and officials suggest that the problem is slowly being addressed and there has been progress. We met with officials from the Foreign Ministry, the National Assembly, the Lao Front for National Construction and, the Women's Union, and NGO representatives. The openness and frankness of our discussions with officials in Laos was greatly encouraging as was their desire to improve the development of their country. There is much poverty in Laos and after discussions with Laotian officials, U.S. government officials, and some NGOS, it was clear that it is important that the United States extend Normal Trade Relations (NTR) status to Laos. Countries, such as Saudi Arabia, with horrendous human rights records do have NTR; though there is more progress needed, the government of Laos allows people of faith to worship, is working to help end trafficking in persons, has cooperated on missing persons issues, and desires to work for the development of opportunities for women and the poor. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the extension of NTR to Laos.

The delegation traveled on to Vietnam to meet with government officials and representatives of a Buddhist organization and a Christian organization. In all meetings, the same issues were raised, and it was clear that the Central Party had a strong hold over the country. We had a very helpful meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and we look forward to interacting with them on a number of issues. In addition we met with the Government Board for Religious Affairs and the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs and plan to raise cases of religious persecution and trafficking with them. Prior to our visit, the Central Party had its Seventh Annual Plenum meeting, of which a major discussion point was religion. Unfortunately, a key directive from that meeting, referred to in a news report from the South China Morning Post, calls for religious people to be patriotic by "volunteering" in the struggle to "foil all attempts of hostile forces who abuse religious and ethnic minority issues to sabotage national unity and act against [the] political regime." This most likely means further attempts at control of religious groups in Vietnam. Recent reports by a number of reliable organizations reveal increasing harassment, persecution and imprisonment of religious believers. We hope that the relationships we formed with Vietnamese officials during our visit will help resolve some of the current religious cases.

In addition, during our visit to Hanoi we had the privilege of visiting the Hanoi Hilton, the notorious prison where members of our armed

services were held during the Vietnam War and where Vietnamese citizens previously were imprisoned by the French military. The glass shards on the walls, the placards of personal stories, the stocks where prisoners were unable to move, the isolation cells and the torture devices were sobering reminders of the suffering of many people in Vietnam.

Mr. Speaker, I had an excellent visit to Southeast Asia and I hope to return soon. I would like to commend the US Embassy officials in Thailand, Laos and Vietnam for their extraordinary work and assistance on this visit; it would not have been as successful without them.

I urge my colleagues to join me in pressing for freedom for the people of Burma, continuing to strengthen our relationship with our close friends in Thailand, and furthering the relationship between our nation and the peoples of Laos and Vietnam.

RECOGNIZING BILLY D. COLE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Billy D. Cole on this, his 50th year in local banking.

Mr. Cole began his banking career on his 18th birthday, March 2, 1953. He found his first job at the former Empire Trust Company where he worked for Fairleigh Enright as a teller-trainee. Since then, he has served as an officer or director of over 40 banks and ten bank holding companies throughout Missouri and Kansas. Today, Mr. Cole serves as the vice-chairman of the board of Nodaway Valley Bank in Missouri.

Mr. Cole truly has worked hard during his years of service and ultimately has become one of the regions well-known and most respected bankers.

Mr. Speaker, today I proudly ask you to join me in commending Billy D. Cole for his accomplishments and dedication on the anniversary of his 50th year in banking.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY PHILLIP ROLLINS

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to pay tribute to Phillip A. Rollins, who stepped down from office this year after serving for 32 years as a District Attorney in Massachusetts.

Since Phil is too modest to draw attention to his own accomplishments, I want to take this moment to share with you some highlights of his distinguished career in public service. Phil started in Cape Cod politics in the 1960s, serving in local government as a Selectman in the Town of Mashpee. He then ran and won a contested race against a longtime District Attorney, representing the Southern District of Massachusetts. From the start, Phil realized that the issues and problems facing the communities on Cape Cod and the Islands of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard were so unique

as to require special focus. The solution was both innovative and practical. The Cape and Islands region needed its own District Attorney, and Phil Rollins had the skill to fulfill that vision.

Over the years that followed, Phil Rollins racked up some impressive professional accomplishments. He was among the first in the Commonwealth to hire female prosecutors, he created a regional crime hotline and developed regional crime prevention strategies, and earned an outstanding reputation for innovation in child abuse and domestic violence. Respected and admired by his colleagues, he was twice selected to be the President of the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association.

As he leaves office, he can look back with enormous pride on all that he has done to professionalize the work of prosecutors, and to improve the quality of life on Cape Cod and the Islands. Most of his crime initiatives are still in place, and he leaves a highly trained office with over 20 lawyers, and a budget of over \$2.5 million. Those who have left his office are considered to be among the best and brightest lawyers in the state.

So, I rise today as a former District Attorney myself, and as the Congressman of a very grateful Cape and Islands constituency to join with my colleagues in the US House of Representatives to recognize the important work of a fine public servant and longtime and very dear friend. Thank you, Phil.

STEEL TARIFFS

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to mark the one-year anniversary of the Section 201 temporary tariff relief for the domestic steel industry. This is an issue that, unfortunately, I have worked on for too many years. However, the current section 201 remedies are working, and I urge the President to continue to support our domestic steel industry by continuing the relief program over the original three year plan.

As many of my colleagues are aware, from 1997 to 2002, 35 domestic steel companies were forced into bankruptcy through illegal dumping practices. One of these companies was Northwestern Steel & Wire Company, which was in Sterling, Illinois, in my district. Northwestern Steel and Wire was forced to close its doors and 1,400 employees lost their jobs. The Department of Labor determined that Northwestern Steel employees were eligible for Trade Adjustment Assistance because "various customers increased their reliance on imported steel and wire rod." This reliance came from a system of foreign steel being dumped into the U.S., thereby preventing American steel companies from fairly competing.

In March 2002, the President imposed 3 years of declining tariffs on various steel products and raw materials. This has allowed the domestic steel industry to deal with changes in the market in a way that does not simply bankrupt all producers or displace thousands of workers. By preventing illegal dumping, the Section 201 relief has allowed a new company to move into Sterling, Illinois. Sterling Steel is currently working with the community to use the Northwestern Steel facilities, and bring steel jobs back to the area. They have created 200 steel related jobs in an area that had lost all steel industry. The ability to open more efficient steel factories and creating jobs in a more stable steel market can only occur with a level playing field. Steel tariffs provide that.

The U.S. steel industry provides not only jobs for communities like Sterling, Illinois, but it also helps secure our national defense. Many vital products that protect and defend our nation's troops are made of steel. Not, just any steel, American steel. Without the opportunity and protection of the 201 relief, we could not guarantee the men and women of our armed services the protections of new ships and tanks. The domestic steel industry is necessary for our nation's vital infrastructure, making up parts of our roads, power plants, and pipelines. By reducing competition by allowing dumping to close down domestic steel producers, we make our nation and our economy more vulnerable.

I want to encourage the President to continue with his plan for three-year declining tar-

iffs. This action will allow the domestic steel industry to stabilize and help communities like Sterling to adjust to the new market without massive layoffs. We must continue to support domestic industry in order to properly turn our economy around.

SUPPORT FOR THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of full funding of the Violence Against Women Act. This law fostered countless initiatives that have brought millions of dollars to shelters, increased resources for law enforcement, expanded the National Domestic Violence Hotline, and bolstered the prosecution of child abuse, sexual assault, and domestic violence cases.

These programs and services are invaluable. U.S. Department of Justice statistics indicate that domestic violence has decreased by 49 percent since VAWA went into effect. They also reaffirm that full funding for VAWA is well worth the investment. It is estimated that the \$1.6 billion spent on VAWA programs during the first six years after its enactment saved government coffers \$14.8 billion in medical, legal, workplace and other social costs, not to mention saving many lives.

Unfortunately, state budget crises and decreases in federal funding are threatening these vital programs and services. President Bush's budget request for FY 2004 would cut funding for VAWA programs and services by \$141.6 million in FY 2004 from the previously authorized level of \$692.5 million.

Our Nation must renew our commitment to ending all forms of domestic violence. I urge my colleagues to appropriate full funding to fulfill the mission of the Violence Against Women Act.